

# SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

415 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y. MURRAY HILL 8-3900

July 10, 1957

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I am sorry that it was necessary for you to write us again, although we are grateful to have your itinerary. We have not forgotten your article on L-forms; indeed, it has been very much on our minds.

There is surely no question that the subject of the article is important, and that Scientific American should publish something about it. At the risk of seeming somewhat mulish, however, we once again find your first draft too difficult.

We earnestly hope that you will want to rework the article to make it understandable to the general reader. Toward that end we have indicated on your carbon copy those parts which we cannot understand. In general, we find the language of the article rather technical and condensed. The arguments need to be spelled out; each set of facts in the step of the reasoning should be explained fully for readers who know little about biology or biochemistry.

If you are willing to proceed along these lines, we would not expect to see the article until after your return. The length of the article, by the way, should be about 4,000 words. Our customary payment for an article of this length is \$400. We hope you enjoy your journey. Please give my regards to Frank Fenner, who once wrote a very nice article for us. We do hope you will want to rework the present article.

Cordially,

*Dennis Flanagan*

Dennis Flanagan  
Editor

DF:ap

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin